

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The specification is amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claim 6 is canceled and the subject matter therein is incorporated into claim 1. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings were objected to for not including reference numeral "5". Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 4, which shows reference numeral 5 (recess). Applicants thus submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Objection to Specification

The specification has been objected to based on informalities. The specification is corrected according to the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 2,728,534 to Wallace. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

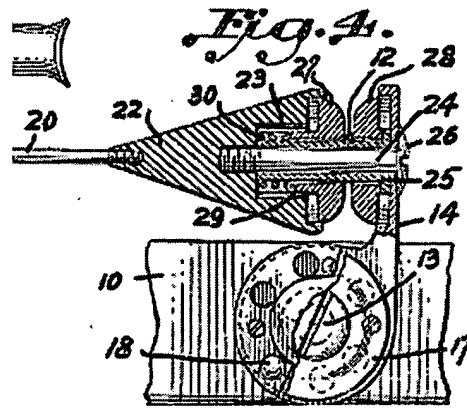
Independent Claim 1

The claimed invention is directed to a spinning reel having, in part, a line roller mechanism provided between the bail arm lever and the line slider for guiding travel of the fishing line toward the spool. In one embodiment, the line roller mechanism includes a generally cylindrical fishing line guide surface portion, as well as a first guide section and a second guide section. The first guide section includes a first nipping surface, and the second guide section has

a second nipping surface positioned in confrontation with the first nipping surface for pinching the fishing line therebetween. The first guide section or the second guide section is slidably movable in the axial direction relative to the other first guide section. The fishing line guide surface portion is inclined to urge the fishing line toward a direction for moving one of the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface away from the remaining one of the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface against a biasing force of the biasing member when a tension of the fishing line guided along the fishing line guide surface portion and between the first and second nipping surfaces exceeds a predetermined tension, whereby a fishing line nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface is nullified.

However, these features are not shown in the Wallace reference. For example, Wallace does not show a fishing line nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface being nullified. Instead, in Wallace, friction heads 27 and 28 are provided on sleeve 25. The friction heads have cooperating faces which are rounded, but which remain in engagement by use of a compression spring 30, thus resulting in a tension device. The degree of the tension can be adjusted by the rotation of the supporting shaft 24. That is, the friction heads can be slideably moveable by adjustment of the supporting shaft 24. (See, col. 2, lines 50-70.)

As clearly shown in Figure 4, as reproduced below, the friction heads 27 and 28 can only move in the axial direction along sleeve 25. Although the friction heads 27 and 28 can also rotate about the sleeve, this rotation does not affect, whatsoever, the inclination angle of the friction heads. This is due to the symmetry of the friction heads. In fact, as seen from Figure 4, the friction heads will always remain parallel with respect to one another, e.g., the same inclination or orientation.



As thus described and shown, Wallace does not show a fishing line nipping force defined between the first nipping surface and the second nipping surface being nullified. The nipping force is never nullified in the Wallace reference.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claim 1 be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-5

Applicants further submit that many of the dependent claims also contain allowable subject matter, which is not shown in the Wallace reference. For example, Wallace does not show, for example, a width of the fishing line guide groove in the axial direction being gradually reduced from the front side to the rear side (claim 2). Although the Examiner is of the opinion that this feature is shown in the Wallace reference, it is argued that there simply is no support in the Wallace reference to show this feature. In fact, as shown in Figure 4, reproduced above, the friction heads about the entire circumference remain at a constant distance from one another, regardless of their rotation or axial movement.

Wallace also does not show that the first guide section and the second guide section having the inclined surface which is adjustable by rotating, or means for means for fixing an angular rotational position of the first guide section or the second guide section and for changing a position of the inclined surface (as recited in claim 3). As discussed above, the friction heads

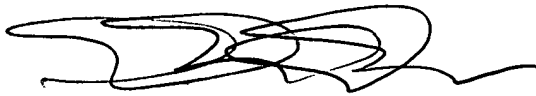
do not have an adjustable included surface. These surfaces always remain in the same relation to one another, regardless of the rotation of the heads or the axial sliding movement across the sleeve. Accordingly, Wallace does not provide any mechanism for adjusting an inclination angle of the friction heads.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 2-6 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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